



*Centers for
Spiritual Living™*

***Creating a World that
Works for All***
by Teaching and Practicing
Science of Mind
Through Social Engagement



***Creando un mundo que
funcione para todos
enseñando y practicando
Ciencia de la Mente
a través del compromiso social***

*A report from the CSL Spiritually
Motivated Social Engagement Committee*



Introduction

In mid-2022, I sent a letter to our global communities of Centers for Spiritual Living expressing gratitude for all the good work being done through them in our world. This document is a collection of responses received from our communities. Many of our members and communities are involved in service actions around the world by providing food, shelter, supporting social justice, empowering youth and many other projects. Although not every community that is active in social engagement is represented here, these responses confirm we are part of something bigger, something we are creating together to fulfill our purpose of awakening humanity to its spiritual magnificence.

To all our communities — whether your contribution is through spiritual education, social engagement or something else — I thank you for the role you play in creating a world that works for all through the teaching and application of Science of Mind.

Rev. Edward Viljoen, DD (hon.)
Spiritual Leader



A mediados de 2022 envié una carta a nuestras comunidades globales de Centros para la Vida Espiritual expresando gratitud por todo el buen trabajo que se está realizando a través de ellos en nuestro mundo. Este documento es una colección de respuestas recibidas de nuestras comunidades. Muchos de nuestros miembros y comunidades están involucrados en acciones de servicio en todo el mundo proporcionando alimentos, vivienda, apoyando la justicia social, empoderando a la juventud y muchos otros proyectos. Aunque no todas las comunidades activas en el compromiso social están representadas aquí, estas respuestas confirman que somos parte de algo más grande, algo que estamos creando juntos para cumplir nuestro propósito de despertar a la humanidad a su magnificencia espiritual.

A todas nuestras comunidades, les digo, ya sea que su contribución a un mundo que funcione para todos sea a través de la educación espiritual, el compromiso social o cualquier otra cosa, les agradezco el papel que desempeñan en la creación de un mundo que funcione para todos a través de la enseñanza y aplicación de la ciencia de la mente.

Rev. Edward Viljoen, DD (hon.)
Spiritual Leader



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Abundant Blessings Focus Ministry

Over the past eight years, Abundant Blessings has provided water, food, inspirational magazines and literature, as well as environmental response supplies, to the growing population of Homeless Individuals in Oakland and surrounding areas. This collaborative effort currently provides more than 100,000 pounds of food and supplies annually to the Greater Oakland / East Bay communities.

Currently, we serve 12 Homeless Encampment Communities. Our reach includes, but is not limited to, Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, San Leandro, Richmond and Hayward. These encampments include single men and women, young children and young adults. Though there are many paths to homelessness, the populations we serve are specific to those who have no available family ties, are below the poverty line, suffer from mental health issues, physical issues and addiction issues, as well as those who have recently been paroled.



Our continued goal is to provide consistent, reliable resources to our communities and maintain our presence as a stable and reliable resource provider for the unhoused. Our desire is for those we serve to feel and know their needs matter: that they are seen, heard and supported by the greater community. It is important that we breathe life into the belief that all community members deserve to have access to consistent, reliable, life-sustaining resources.

Abundant Blessings became an official Focus Ministry of CSL in July of 2022, led by Rev. Dr. Ona Afrae. To see more information on Abundant Blessings, please visit our website at **AbundantBlessingsEastBay.org**.



Amazing Grace Spiritual Center, Seattle, Washington

Our Local Service Team has two main projects:

Ballard Sunday Dinners

A group of five local churches rotates the service of providing dinners to our neighbors in need on Sunday evenings. Before the pandemic, we served up to 60 people indoors with a full hot meal. We current serve 25 to 40 people with dinners to go. We have team of volunteers for shopping, preparing and serving the meals on second Sundays.

Gift of the Month Club

Because we are a smaller community, we have chosen to contribute to larger, established nonprofit organizations providing services of various types. Each month, we collect funds, holiday gifts, clothing, used eyeglasses or other gifts for a particular organization, furthering their work in our community.

Our Global Service Team has two current projects:

Cambodian Children's Destiny

A school in Phum O Village, Siem Reap Province, Cambodia: This is our first international outreach project in Cambodia. Our community discovered this community and its founder — a Buddhist monk named Sokhun Tho — in 2013. Amazing Grace then had the honor of hearing the call and supporting his dream of creating a school in his village of Phum O. Since 2014, we have raised more than \$225,000 to build facilities and support this school. We initially built a five-room school building, and we have traveled to Cambodia five times with a group of congregants. During our visits, we assist in expanding the campus and teaching the students. Currently, we raise more than \$15,000 each year to contribute toward ongoing operating expenses.

The school now includes the aforementioned school building, an administration building, an accommodation building (for visitors) and a sports court. The school is in the process of expanding into a new two-story building. Eventually, this new building will allow more students to learn English and computer skills. The school has an attendance of more than 550 children in all age groups (K-12). The curriculum includes English and computer training as well as Buddhist teachings, rounding out the education provided in the public schools. We are so proud that

it has survived and thrived through COVID times and is still thriving. During COVID, we raised funds to support the village with food and basic supplies.

The school and its administration staff and leadership are now well known in the village as leaders in education, and local and provincial leaders look to them as a model school. We will be raising more funds this year for administrative costs and looking forward to traveling there again in 2023.

Greenlight Education Center in rural Western Kenya

Our work here began in 2015 when its founder, Mary Omollo, was introduced to our Global Service Team. The Greenlight Education Center is located in rural Western Kenya, 45 minutes inland from Lake Victoria. It was created in 2011 by Mary Omollo for young children orphaned due to AIDS. It quickly expanded to include every child in the valley. Since 2018, this private school serves more than 200 students from nursery to 8th grade. The school registered with the state education board. For the first time in 2022, 18 of the 8th grade students successfully passed the national exams to continue on to high school, although many cannot afford the costs to attend.

In 2018, 18 of our Global Services Team members traveled to Kenya and raised \$36,000 in funds for a two-classroom building, water tanks, solar power, toilets and a fence. Since 2018, we have continued to support the school with salaries for the 11 teachers and lunch meals for the students. We additionally helped the village with food and masks during the pandemic. To date, we have raised \$100,000 for this project.

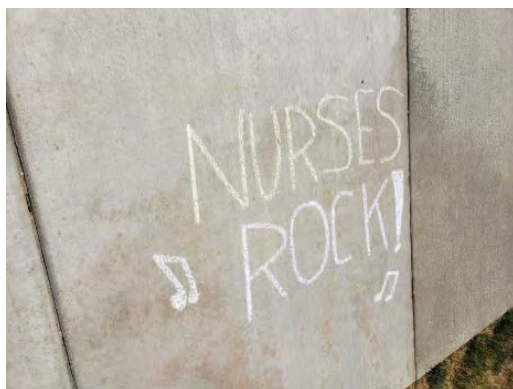
Our commitment is to continue to support the Greenlight Education Center as we can. We hope to travel again to Kenya to support the completion of the school with three additional permanent school buildings and to support Mary Omollo in finding other sources of income to continue school operations.

El Puente del Caribe Outreach

Our Global Service Team also traveled to and provided \$5,000 in support to El Puente del Caribe, a CSL-affiliated organization bridging the native Bribri, an ancient Indigenous people, with the larger culture of Costa Rica.

Center for Spiritual Living Grand Junction

- This community is service oriented! In this past year, we have supported medical staff by writing thank-you cards and loving, uplifting messages on the sidewalks at the hospitals in sidewalk chalk.
- We have adopted a street in our community that we clean twice a year.
- We have been making lunches for hungry people once a month.
- At Christmas last year, we had an "Un-Christmas" Drive where we collected underwear and socks for young people in need in the greater Grand Valley through Hilltop Family Resources.
- We always have a big presence at the Pride event here in the valley. Our local event is usually held in September.



Light on the Mountains Center for Spiritual Living

Refugee Ministry

- There is a refugee relocation center about 75 miles from us in Twin Falls, Idaho.
- We have done some work with them in the past, but we took on a more ambitious project with them toward the end of 2021. We sponsored a family from Sudan who relocated to the Twin Falls area.
- The refugee center found them a place to live and subsidized their housing. We took on the responsibility of fully furnishing and supplying their new home with everything they needed to get started. This included all furnishings for their living room, dining room and bedroom, food in the cupboards, all small appliances, sheets, towels, cleaning supplies under the kitchen sink, and even shampoo and conditioner placed in the shower. Some of the furnishings could be donations of gently used items. Many things they needed were purchased new, so our members shared both cash donations and gently used items.



Teen Ministry

- Our teens joined forces with their peers from a local private school to help this refugee family. The teens stood outside one of our local grocery stores handing out shopping lists to people as they entered with suggested items they could buy on the spot and then donate to our refugee family.
- This has been a great experience for our entire congregation. I suspect this will be an annual project for us.

InSpirit Center for Spiritual Living, Orange County

- **Blood drive:** For the past four years, we have worked together with the Red Cross to bring in a mobile blood donation site to our parking lot. Our congregation generously served as the donors.
- **Fisher House:** For the past five years, we have been supporting the Fisher House at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside. The Fisher House offers a "home away from home" at no cost for families of patients (Navy and Marine Corps) receiving treatment at the Naval Hospital. With the generosity of our congregation, we deliver home supplies, water, snacks as well as restaurant and store gift cards for families to enjoy during their stay.
- **Linda Vista Elementary:** For eight years during the summer, our congregation donates school supplies and backpacks for families in need at Linda Vista Elementary School in Mission Viejo.
- **Families Forward:** For the past eight years, we have been supporting Families Forward to provide a complete Thanksgiving meal for families in the Orange County area. Our congregation donates canned goods and gift cards for turkeys at local stores during this special holiday.

Thank You InSpirit Community

- Your donations have helped 63 lives.
- The Outreach Committee and the American Red Cross are grateful for your support.



Thank You InSpirit Community

*With your love and generosity
We delivered \$660 in school supplies
and \$445 in gift cards for
the Linda Vista Elementary School.*

*With Gratitude
the InSpirit Outreach Committee*



- **Christmas Angel Project:** For more than 20 years, we have supported the Orange County Health Department, Behavioral Health Division and Mission Hospital Family Resource Center by sponsoring 20 to 30 children and some parents, providing them with their Christmas wish-list presents.
- **Other projects:** We also financially support several other organizations, including:
 - Boys & Girls Club of Capo Valley
 - Working Wardrobes (gently used work attire for veterans and individual rebuilding their careers)
 - Family Assistance Ministries (new and gently used blankets during winter season along with blessing bags filled with hygiene basics)
 - Human Options and Laura's House (cleaning and painting transitional homes for families of domestic violence)



Center for Spiritual Living Bellingham

CSL Bellingham is serving our larger community. Here are a few of the many things we are involved with in the broad categories of climate awareness and assisting those experiencing homelessness.

Earth Stewards

Earth Stewards is a team of concerned CSLB members and friends who band together to raise awareness, provide information on action steps and participate in local efforts to help our lovely planet. In the past year, we hosted documentary films on climate awareness and action, held Zoom and in-person discussion groups, cleaned local beaches with our fellow Bellingham citizens, restored trails, led nature walks and joined **Earth Ministries**, a national organization of faith leaders and their congregations dedicated to caring for the Earth and raising awareness.

People Experiencing Homelessness

We are involved in several programs that assist. We are the founders of a program called **Laundry Love** that has been running for eight years now. We wanted to assist in ways not already covered, and laundry checked several of our boxes. The amount of clothing and bedding left in encampments is astonishing. We help the Earth and people by providing laundry services at a local laundromat. But more importantly, we want the children, families and adults to be able to walk with dignity in clean garments to school, apply for employment and feel cared for.

Family Promise

We decided to join with the local Interfaith Coalition in a program called Family Promise. This lifts families who are homeless into temporary housing and provides on-site social services aimed at helping them find employment and permanent housing. Our small contribution is to help feed them. Four times a year, we make food, buy groceries and support the families in stepping into a more secure and thriving life.

We were made aware of the number of homeless young adults leaving the foster care system at 18 with nowhere to go. One of the social workers working with these young adults asked if we would bake birthday cakes of their choice..

The **Cake Brigade** was born, and we deliver personalized birthday cakes throughout the year (almost 50 last year).

Care Cookie and Bridges to Services

We started a Care Cookie Team that makes high-protein and high-fat cookies to those living out. That experience led to Bridges to Services, an organization packing in hot food to those living out, not in the camps.

We are so grateful to be able to offer our love in these tangible ways.

The pictures below include moving one of our Family Promise recipients into permanent housing, a virtual bed race fundraiser for Family Promise, and making and packing up hot food for the Bridges to Services folks.



Center for Spiritual Living Thailand

We support a local organization called the Thai Freedom House that assists Burmese refugees and other displaced Thai people due to the war in Burma/Myanmar. There is a military crackdown in both countries (including Thailand) that prevent people from attaining basic health care, food and other freedoms many people take for granted.

Thai Freedom house sends truckloads of basic supplies and helps educate people as well. CSL Thailand has provided workshops and financial assistance.

You can learn more at <http://thaifreedomhouse.org/>.

Center for Spiritual Living Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

Our Centre received the wonderful opportunity to participate in supporting a family relocating here from Ukraine. Anton, Maria and their wee sons were forced to leave Ukraine due to the war. One of our board member's family provided accommodation on their property for the family to live in and have gone above and beyond in navigating the many details required to get them here.

The people of our Centre stepped up in a big-hearted way by donating many articles needed to outfit the house to make it a home: furniture, appliances, bedding, towels, dishes and everything you can imagine a home would need. Money was donated to purchase mattresses and grocery staples.

Money was also donated, along with many gift certificates, for the family to purchase groceries and clothing. They arrived here with very little.

Many hours of labor were donated to get the home set up, assemble beds, make repairs and deliver supplies. So much was involved in seeing this family arrive safely in Kelowna.

What is so beautiful and moving is the heart behind each of these things. People were so joy-filled to participate and share their good, to ensure this lovely family arrived to a comfortable, welcoming home. The people of our Centre are grateful to have a way to participate in offering support. The heart behind their caring and deep desire to help has moved me to tears.

I love watching the joy we have all felt in being able to participate in creating a world that works for everyone.

Center for Spiritual Living Morristown



- We participate in community event days.
- We are planning a Community Wellness Day ourselves at our new location.
- We provide meditation in our local jail and have for 10 years in person, 1.5 years on Zoom (to three different groups).

Center for Spiritual Living Redding

The Redding Health Fair

In 2022, the event was on Saturday, June 4 at the convention center. Our banner listed all the healthy-living activities/classes we offer. Giveaways were heart-shaped stress balls with the Center's logo on each and assorted chocolates as well as literature about yoga, Tai Chi, Qigong, meditation, labyrinth walks, mindfulness, watercolor classes, prayer, our monthly newsletter and more. More than 100 booths were set up, and it was a steady flow of visitors all day.



Shoes for Souls

- We collect shoes for the homeless year-round. Once a year, the county offers a Homeless Connect Day where volunteers go out and register the homeless into the county health and services system.
- They invite providers of all types to the property around the Redding Library for a full day of service. This year, more than 100 booths offered just about anything you can imagine to those experiencing homelessness.
- We bring shoes and socks. This year, we had about 150 pairs of men's and women's shoes and 100 pairs of socks. We set up one table for men, one for women and another for socks. At the end of the day, we only had five pairs of men's shoes left and about 60 pairs of women's, which were then taken to Goodwill. We saw many smiling faces as people got rid of their heavily worn shoes and socks and walk away with new ones. There was also a huge food truck giving away lunches to those experiencing homelessness and all the providers.



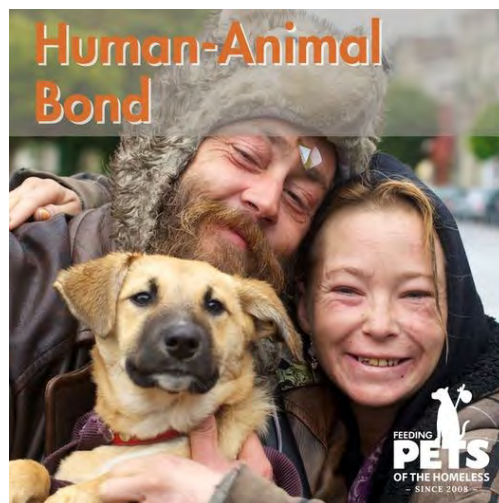
Pride Celebration

- Every year, we have a booth at the PRIDE Celebration and promote our health and fitness programs. We also give away positive fortune cookies. The cookies are made by a national company, and we provide the positive quotes to them. Our tablecloth has PRIDE logos on it and the words “To Love Is to Love.”
- The paper in the cookie with the quote has our logo on the back of it. It is great fun to see the smiles when people open the cookie and read it to their parents and friends.



Feeding Pets of the Homeless

- We are the only collector of food for pets of the homeless in North Central California as part of the national Feeding Pets of the Homeless organization.
- We collect cat and dog food, both dry and canned. A team puts the dry food in 5-lb., heavy-duty plastic bags, and along with the wet food, it is delivered to four locations: Salvation Army, Anderson Christian Assistance, People of Progress and the mission for distribution.



CSL Redding: Your Stress Reduction Headquarters

- Earth Day is a great time to promote our health programs. We offered positive fortune cookies, literature and a couple of raffle items.
- Having young people at the booth was great fun. This is a major event in Redding with bandstands, food booths and every kind of booth imaginable.

Supporting Blue Santa

- The Redding Police Association gives teddy bears and stuffed animals away the week before Christmas to children in the hospital and in the poorest neighborhoods of Redding.
- To see a police car driving around with a bear sticking its head out the side window is a true delight! We collect bears for three weeks and usually have 100 to 200 animals that get “loved up” by the congregation the Sunday before delivering them to the police. We are the largest contributor to the program.



Center for Spiritual Living Redlands

CSL Redlands is active in the City of Redlands and is a member of the Redlands Chamber of Commerce and the Redlands Interfaith Council.

We provide services to the community and host four working homeless community members. We provide them with a safe shelter for sleeping and have volunteers who assist by providing a safe space during the evening and hot, delicious meals. We not only provide meals to our guests, but we also, with the help of local volunteers, provide meals to the homeless throughout the Redlands community. We received a food grant of \$2,000 from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints that helps us to provide meals for our community.

CSL Redlands also started a summer reading program for the local elementary school students. For this program, we had 20 spaces available, and 15 students have already filled them to date, with six continuing the program for the rest of the summer. We are hoping to continue our summer reading program every year with the help of grants.

Center for Spiritual Living St. Augustine

- Interfaith beach clean-up
- Service followed up a march for peace
- Backpacks for underserved kids: When we do these collections, the big ones are at Christmas. I ask people to pray over the items at home and then bring them to the Center where we all can pray over them.
- Flyer for Ukraine
- Metal from the Ukrainian government for a young artist involved in our peace service
- Weekly offering for the food bank
- Ted Manly awarding the Venus Manly Scholarships for two students with disabilities
- Thanksgiving service at the Cathedral Basilica of St Augustine: For the first time in their long history, a New Thought Minister, a Buddhist, a Hindu, a Native American and Jewish Rabbi offered prayers for Thanksgiving.



Center for Spiritual Living Santa Rosa

Jail Ministry

Our Jail Ministry Team visits people in the Sonoma County jail, usually making 50 visits each month, and often holds weekly online classes with six to eight people.



Days for Girls

The Central Santa Rosa Days for Girls Team, led by Brenda Kobrin, has continued to work right through the pandemic, making washable, reusable menstrual kits for girls in developing countries. When all groups shut down due to the pandemic, Brenda switched gears from in-person sew days to passing out supplies and printed and video instructions for making the components of these kits at home. A few super-sewists and a couple dozen occasional sewists have kept this project alive.



Over the past two years, we sent kits to Panama, Lebanon, Chad, Jordan and the Days for Girls Utah Distribution Center for use where most needed. We sent 67 complete kits plus 4,901 components (enough for 446 kits). Each kit is expected to last a girl or woman three to five years. It is truly a transformative gift for each girl who receives one.

In May, we had our first in-person sew day since the pandemic began. We met at Village Sewing Center and plan to do so once a month ongoing.

Food for the Unsheltered

A team cooks for the unsheltered on Thursdays (cooking for 80) and on Tuesdays (cooking for 95). We work under Sonoma County Acts of Kindness. We provide hot meals for Sonoma County unsheltered neighbors twice a week. There is another team on Wednesdays (not associated with our Center) that prepares sandwiches and cookies.



East Bay Church of Religious Science

East Bay Church of Religious Science (EBCRS), a Center for Spiritual Living, has continuously expanded our outreach programs as the needs of our members and surrounding communities increased. Our mission statement captures our intention, vision and mission of spiritual transformation of the entire planet. Here are descriptions of our outreach ministries.

In addition to the work we do within our community, East Bay has partnered with several organizations in the Bay Area:

Family Art Culture Education and Spirituality (FACES)

The mission of FACES is to provide holistic, integrated programs and services that enhance and empower individuals and families throughout the East Bay. FACES programs and services include:

- Providing fresh foods and vegetables to the community through a drive-up food pantry.
- Delivering Blessing Bags of food, toiletries and other necessities to the unhoused throughout Oakland.
- Offering exposure to non-denominational, universal spiritual principles that support, guide and inspire wise and productive decision-making.

Laney College CARE Program

The Laney College CARE Program assists students in a supportive environment, providing academic counseling, peer advisors, financial support (to eligible students) and personal development activities. East Bay has partnered with Laney College for the past 15 years, supporting single-parent students by:

- Providing backpacks for school-age children.
- Hosting Thanksgiving Day service and brunch for students and their families
- Adopting families and gifting them during the U.S. winter holidays.

Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA)

YSA provides transitional housing for young adults and at-risk youth. EBCRS has been a partner since 2019. We help fund tiny homes, give monthly food donations and recruit mentors from our congregation and the greater Oakland community.

Beacon of Light Prison Ministry

The Beacon of Light Prison Ministry is dedicated to supporting and empowering individuals by uplifting all impacted by incarceration with dignity, respect and love. Its goal is to serve as a safe and nonjudgmental space to support positive new beginnings. This is done by:

- Giving information on employment, housing, medical/health care and maintenance, food pantries, counseling and other resources to individuals transitioning from incarceration to their communities.
- Visiting incarcerated individuals and providing support at court appearances.
- Assisting family members with keeping informed about what is going on with their loved ones about location and status.
- Providing monthly information sessions that feature speakers from various backgrounds, including formerly incarcerated individuals, prison reform activists and representatives from programs serving youth offenders.
- Working closely with prevention programs for youth.

Voter Education

Every year, before the November elections, the Sacred Activism Ministry presents interactive Zoom sessions on a variety of voter-related topics, including voter registration, where and how to vote, a review of ballot local ballot measures and, as appropriate, issues and candidates in regional and national elections. We partner with subject matter experts such as the League of Women Voters and other voter education organizations.

Financial Literacy

Our Financial Literacy Academy provides interactive classes and workshops in areas related to financial literacy. Anchored in New Thought prosperity principles, we bring in experts from community banks, estate planners, financial planners and debt management experts to teach and provide information about building personal, family and community wealth.

Health and Wellness

This is one of our longest-standing programs. Health and Wellness sponsors events throughout the year focusing on various topics, including diet, exercise, blood pressure management, diabetes management, medical power of attorney, etc. The Health and Wellness Ministry brings in medical professionals to serve at

EBCRS Health Fairs and other community events, such as the annual walk at Lake Merritt in the heart of Oakland.

In addition to these specific programs, East Bay's Pastoral Care, Grief and Loss, and Women's Empowerment ministries are available to the community and East Bay members.

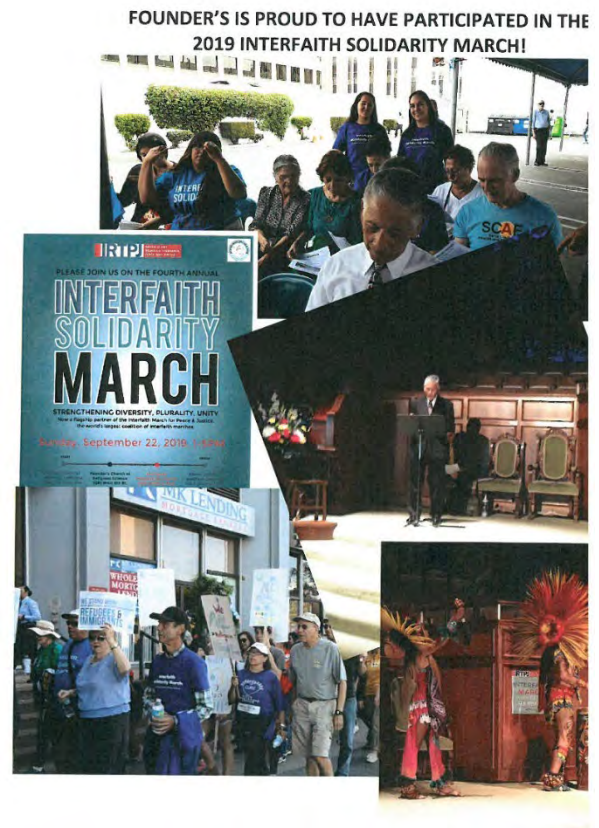
Founder's Church of Religious Science

Founder's was motivated to reach out beyond its walls for some years now. Founder's has promoted an annual health fair in partnership with Cedars Sinai Hospital. Activities benefitting the public include blood pressure checks and medical advice by professionals, dental care, presentations diet, exercise, acupunctures and a number of other health modalities.

Founder's minister and a number of members received training at the Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement, sponsored by the University of Southern California (USC). It was from this exposure that Rev. Steve Rambo had the Murray Center's main trainer, Rev. Mark Whitlock, speak at one of our annual gatherings to encourage and model how churches can reach beyond their walls in an age when more than 60% of churchgoers no longer attend church.

As a result our training at the Murray Center, Founder's board formed a secular nonprofit dedicated to that work.

After examining the options for making a difference, our Founder's Outreach Center dedicated and spent more than \$60,000 to promote a children's community choir. The result was not the success we expected it to be due to the pandemic. Further, Jonas Sills, known for creating children singing groups, founded a children's choir for Founder's kids. However, the pandemic took down this effort.



Founder's Church, through our Men's Ministry, sponsored two teens for their initial quarter in college. Each student received \$1,000 after submitting proof of successfully completing the first quarter with good grades. One more scholarship is under consideration.

For several years, Founder's participated with The Institute for Religious Tolerance for Peace and Justice in promoting a march and speeches consistent with the name of this organization. This was when Muslims were the target of violence and hate. The groups consisted of many different faiths and organizations. We also contributed to their appeal for funds.



Founder's provided a venue for cultural activities such as Heidi Duckler Dance Company, which used Founder's for special productions and will do so again this October. Founder's also hosted the Theater Organ Society, a group dedicated to keeping the theater organ alive as part of our American heritage. Founder's has the largest theater organ of any church in the world, according to the LA Theater Organ Society.

Founder's is on the National Register of Historic Places. This is because the Black architect, Paul R. Williams, whose excellent designs are only recently recognized, designed our facility. From Williams' newly found notoriety, PBS (public television) has featured the works of Williams on their program, "Lost LA." Dr. Arthur Chang was featured in a Founder's segment. Williams was recently awarded the Gold Medal for Excellence in Design Architectural by the Institute of Architects (AIA).

USC, which houses the Paul R. Williams archives, has reached out to us regarding a feature Williams' work us in an upcoming program. Williams was a graduate of USC.

Founder's also provided a home to other religious organizations who had lost their place to assemble: Wilshire Christian Church, LA Open Door Presbyterian and the Institute for Divine Metaphysical Research.

Founder's has temporarily curtailed its outreach activities as it seeks to stabilize itself from the damaging impact of the pandemic.

Guidance Church, a Center for Spiritual Living

Go Team Ministry

Our ministry was established in 2006 for expressly for feeding the homeless and providing prayers of encouragement with comfort, love and respect. Our mission is to strive to be a beacon of light in our community and the homeless community by meeting human needs and being an open-door church actively reaching out and welcoming all people. In order to achieve this mission, we provide food, clothing and other essential items to the homeless and less fortunate. We exist by carrying God's words of love, giving and serving through a committed group of people who fellowship with the homeless.

We partner with other nonprofit agencies that provide health fairs for HIV/AIDS testing, blood pressure, diabetic checks and more. We participate in the annual Peace and Nonviolence Season programs and annual walks. We also open our doors to sponsor Open Mike Night for young artist to display their talents. All are welcome.

We continue to look for new ideas on how to improve and expand our services to the homeless.



Mountainside Center for Spiritual Living, Placerville, California

This picture shows our collection of boxes for the Center for Nonviolence Relationships.

The Center serves survivors of domestic violence. Mountainside donated food boxes for Christmas the past two years.

We provide food, decorations and small gifts for a holiday dinner. Each box is lovingly packed with blessings.



Oakland Center for Spiritual Living

- Collaboration on a monthly basis with a different nonprofit community partner to support a variety of causes and services



- Our participation in two local Pride events supporting our LGBTQIA+ communities in Oakland and Alameda



Center for Spiritual Living St. George

Center for Spiritual Living St George has served several entities over the last few years by gathering food, school supplies, etc. Some of those entities are: Youth Futures (homeless shelter for youth), Encircle (LGBTQ+ youth - 12-25yo - resource center), Solomon's Porch Foursquare Fellowship food drive, and (very often) for Switchpoint Homeless Shelter and Resource Center (which also includes a 24/7 daycare center, inexpensive housing in refurbished motels, food bank, thrift store collection, job opportunities, Rise Garden, etc.).



Several of our community members volunteer in the community (in addition to their service to CSLSG). A couple volunteer for Encircle, at least two volunteers at Switchpoint, one volunteers for Affirmation (an organization that supports LGBTQ+ families with their faith challenges).

Our leadership chose to participate in events and donate funds to: Equality Utah (state organization that advocates legislatively for LGBTQ+ Utahns) Gala by hosting a table and attending the event during the summer and PRIDE of Southern Utah by having an information table at the PRIDE outdoor celebration in September. (There are a few pictures below of some of our folks at these two events.) Encircle hosted one of our social gatherings and provided a tour and information for our community.

Our center is also doing our second series of conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion as part of our connection with the Global Vision of creating a world that works for everyone. The first series occurred in late fall and the second series will begin at the end of February. It is a six-week (one day a week) conversation fueled by music videos, inspiring videos and intimate discussions of personal histories and perspectives with racism, privilege and innate biases.

I am a practitioner in training and serve in our Community Care Circle where I learned of this young man from California in a correctional type facility in our city. He was 14 when first ordered by the court to this facility, and his father requested we contact him.

I wrote to him regularly for about two years and was then permitted a personal visit. I didn't know how this young person would accept affirmative prayer and talking about Spirit, but it turns out, it was the right thing to do. He left the facility about a year ago, and I was happy to receive this message from him: "You and the church have helped me get to where I am today. After I left, I got baptized because of our talk and prayer. Thank you so much. You changed my life."

Ventura Center for Spiritual Living

Our form of activism is rooted in the idea that we don't shake our fists or point fingers — we look for the compassion, kindness and love, and we do our best to amplify it. "Search and amplify" is a principle from the Gandhi lineage.



- Partnership with Step Up Ventura, a preschool for children impacted by homelessness; we have volunteer readers.
- Partner with Lift Up Your Voice, a rehousing program
- Serve at Family to Family, an organization providing food to unhoused people
- Casual distribution of handmade blankets, toiletries, food and water; we are in a downtown area and keep a supply handy for folks who need support.
- Food drives for the Food Share Program
- Toy Drive for Step Up Ventura, one of the few drives that provides gifts for children, siblings and their parents
- Love Mail, sending loving postcards to organizations that have been impacted by hateful acts
- Financial donations: A particularly moving one was to our local Sikh Gurdwara. This was in response to a bombing of a Sikh community in the Midwest. The song leader and I became friends. I have spoken at their service, and we will soon have a field trip over there.

- Acts of Love, such as our support of Temple Beth Torah (photo attached); someone painted a hate message on their sign, so we showed up with hearts.
- Through ServiceSpace connections, we are beginning to film a monthly youth presentation that we send to contacts all over the world. This started because a barber in Ghana wanted to set up a reading library for children in his area. We provide the stories/films in French and English.
- We attend the Pride festival every year (when it's not virtual). Last time, we set up an Encouragement Station. People colored a tablecloth and received encouragement from our volunteers (and stealth prayer where we spoke the spiritual truth to them).
- We did something similar at the Berkeley Buddhist Festival a few years back. I was the co-emcee, and several volunteers traveled with me to do an encouragement booth.

En español – Central Argentina Teaching Chapter

Elizabeth Lucía Pantalena

Me presento, soy Elizabeth Lucía Pantalena, estudiante de Pract Training 1, CSL Central Argentina Teaching Chapter, dirigido por Ana Fumarco RScP. Soy de Tucumán, Argentina. Tucumán es una provincia al Norte del país, con una población aproximada de 1.400.000 habitantes.

En uno de sus departamentos del interior, Cruz Alta, en la localidad de Los Gutiérrez se encuentra la Escuela Media de Los Gutiérrez, en la cual me desempeño como docente y en la que desde el año 2017 implementamos el Proyecto Solidario “Mi Paz es la Armonía de Todos” en el cual, junto a mis estudiantes, sus familias y distintos sectores de la comunidad realizamos prácticas de meditación, yoga, alimentación saludable y neurociencias aplicada a la educación. En este proyecto los actores principales son los estudiantes, quienes son capacitados por mí en la Escuela, para que ellos sean los encargados de transmitir sus conocimientos en Talleres que realizamos en la comunidad y en Escuelas vecinas.

Los objetivos de este Proyecto Solidario son:

- Instaurar en la comunidad hábitos de alimentación saludable.
- Favorecer las relaciones entre los alumnos y las familias participantes de la experiencia, promoviendo en la comunidad espacios para la autorreflexión y diálogo.
- Fortalecer redes interinstitucionales (Escuela- Familia-Comunidad).
- Capacitar en técnicas de relajación, meditación, concentración, autoconocimiento, neurociencias, yoga, yoga facial y alimentación saludable a alumnos de la Institución y sus familias.
- Favorecer la convivencia armónica entre todos los miembros de la comunidad escolar.

Para ello realizamos las siguientes actividades:

Actividades de Aprendizaje:

- Lectura, análisis y reflexión de textos de neurociencias, alimentación saludable, yoga y meditación.
- Talleres de práctica de asanas, pranayamas y técnicas de meditación.

- Elaboración de recetario saludable comunitario.

Actividades de servicio solidario:

- Talleres de alimentación saludable con las 46 familias participantes del proyecto.
- Talleres de yoga y meditación dictados por los alumnos a 46 familias, y a los alumnos y personal docente de la Escuela Media de Los Gutiérrez.
- Convivencias intra e inter escolares.



Como sostiene Nicholas Burbules “... hay que buscar nuevas formas de aprendizaje, nuevas formas que permitan la colaboración de los estudiantes entre sí, lo que en realidad significa cambiar el concepto de aprendizaje al reinsertarlo en ésta suerte de contexto ubicuo, de múltiples facetas. A medida que el aprendizaje se vuelve más social y colaborativo cambia la motivación de los estudiantes, que ya no piensan en aprender algo para sí, o porque quieren ser los mejores en algo, buscan ahora aprender juntos con un sentido de colaboración”

Con la experiencia en la ejecución de éste proyecto puede concluirse que los alumnos están aplicando en la práctica el aprendizaje solidario, inclusivo, de calidad y educándose en valores.

Sumo a continuación algunas imágenes del trabajo que estamos realizando y pueden interiorizarse más en la siguiente página:

[https://instagram.com/pazyarmonia ok?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=](https://instagram.com/pazyarmonia_ok?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)

Nuestro Lugar en el Mundo, Argentina, Tucumán, Dpto Cruz Alta, Localidad de Los Gutiérrez.



Nuestra Escuela



Taller y convivencia con Escuela de Capacitación Técnica de Los Ralos (Comuna Rural, ubicada al Este de la Provincia de Tucumán, en el departamento Cruz Alta, a 22 km de San Miguel de Tucumán)



Jornada de Promoción de Bienestar en la Comunidad Parque 9 de Julio.





Práctica de asanas (posturas)



Presentación en E.M.G de recetario saludable y de limonada orgánica elaborada por los alumnos.



Taller para Familias de las Escuela nº 110 Celedonio Gutiérrez. Y continuamos llevando luz ... Abrazos Luminosos. Profesora Elizabeth Lucía Pantalena.



Mayca Rivero, RScP

Mi nombre es Mayca Rivero RScP. Centro Argentino de Ciencia de la Mente; dirijo clases en mi Centro Empezando de Nuevo ubicado en la Provincia de La Pampa, la misma se encuentra en el corazón de la República Argentina.

En esta ocasión comparto parte del material de los programas de Tv que realizo semanalmente desde hace 8 años en un canal local de televisión; que también se puede mirar en línea de manera espontánea, como así también en mi canal de Youtube Mayca Rivero.

Desde hace tiempo estoy comprometida con mi comunidad; contribuyo brindando información de manera masiva y a través de la educación espiritual.

Agradezco el espacio otorgado que nos permite mostrar nuestra labor y acciones de servicio en el mundo.

Hoy albóndigas al por mayor para nuestros @amigosenlacalle 🥰 gracias @mariadotro @gladysmendicino por sus ❤️❤️ tan generosos que me ayudan a ayudar ❤️❤️ Las quiero



Vanina Vitale, RScP

Mi nombre es Vanina Vitale , soy Practicante desde 2016, vivo en la ciudad de Buenos Aires y pertenezco al Centro de Ciencia de la Mente Argentina que conduce Ana Fumarco. Hasta el año pasado asistí cocinando a las personas en situación de calle. Colaboro, en la actualidad con familias muy humildes que necesitan apoyo. He contribuido con la Fundación Puertas Abiertas, ayudando alas mujeres prostitutas que desean salir de la calle, tanto en trabajo de campo como en la organización de talleres. Durante el 2020, un año particularmente difícil a nivel mundial, realicé meditaciones en vivo por redes sociales para transmitir calma y contención.

En la actualidad contribuyo con prácticas de Yoga totalmente gratuitas por las mismas redes sociales: <https://youtu.be/MIUEi8bcnHc>.



Vani Vitale

30 de julio de 2020 · 🌐

Así se fue hoy Carlitos!! Cargado hasta los dientes, literal!! Y con un corazón hiper agradecido ❤️. Estaba feliz y nosotros tb!! Gracias a todos los que nos ayudan a ayudar!!!



Preparando todo para el día del niño ❤️ gracias a todos los que me ayudan a ayudar 🙏



En español – El Centro para la Vida Espiritual ALQUIMIA

El Centro para la Vida Espiritual ALQUIMIA – CIENCIA DE LA MENTE de Lima – Perú, a través de su servicio social incluye a personas de bajos recursos a alcanzar su máximo potencial.

- Con este Proyecto beneficiamos a nuestra Comunidad, pues trabajamos con madres menores de edad de bajos recursos. Ellas son adolescentes gestantes en riesgo que llevan un embarazo precoz no deseado, y madres con bebés en sus primeros días de nacidos, que presentan problemas de desamparo, con experiencia de vida en la calle.
- A estas madres adolescentes cuyas edades fluctúan entre los 13 y 17 años, les brindamos Asesorías Espirituales personalizadas, Talleres de Auto crecimiento y el conocimiento de Ciencia de la Mente, contribuyendo en su transformación personal, para que tengan un vínculo más saludable con sus hijos en gestación y recién nacidos, en esta etapa fundamental de inicio de vida.
- La permanencia de estas madres en estos centros de apoyo es transitoria, y este programa del cual formamos parte, está orientado a la reinserción social de estas menores de edad, que no tienen donde vivir y se las acoge por un plazo determinado. Luego, deben salir con sus hijos para valerse por sí mismas, son personas derivadas por el Juzgado de Familia, investigación tutelar-INABIF, que han sido abandonadas por sus propias familias, maltratadas, violadas, abusadas, y algunas de ellas asociadas al consumo frecuente de inhalantes, especialmente Terokal.
- Aquí les hago llegar algunas fotos por las que obtuvimos permiso del Servicio que realizamos, porque al ser menores de edad no se permite tomar fotos.



En español – Practicante Licenciada de Ciencia de la Mente en Cuba

- Enseñar Ciencia de la Mente ha sido una linda experiencia a pesar que en mis inicios sentía temor por no saber cómo compartir esta enseñanza a otros, que desde el corazón sabía, que merecían recibir este conocimiento, que cambia vidas. Pesé a la gran responsabilidad que conlleva, tomé la decisión y creé el grupo. Hoy me siento muy feliz de todo lo que hemos logrado. Hemos visto a cuantas personas hemos guiado a sentirse mejor y encontrar armonía a pesar de las aparentes dificultades.
- En agosto es el aniversario sexto de nuestro grupo amado. Somos una comunidad muy unida, nos apoyamos mutuamente y compartimos nuestras vidas y experiencias de una manera alegre y profunda.
- También apoyamos a personas fuera de la ciudad. Hemos viajado a Holguin, que es la ciudad principal de la provincia a 70 kms de distancia. Nos reunimos cada mes en un hospital que ha solicitado que compartamos experiencias, temas y también actividades como meditación, reiki, técnicas de respiración y otros. También hemos viajado a Bayamo, Granma otra provincia con un grupo interesado en las enseñanzas de Ciencia de la Mente. Está en planes viajar a la Habana el próximo mes con la intención de expandir nuestras enseñanzas. Sentimos que nuestro sueño de crecimiento en Cuba esta avanzando poco a poco.



- Tenemos un espacio en la radio local en donde transmito los conocimientos de Ciencia de la Mente, hablando del Proceso Creativo, de los Equivalentes Mentales y otros temas accesibles para el entendimiento de otros y sobre todo su aceptación. Lo cual nos hace muy felices.
- Por último, quiero mencionar a las personas que han apoyado incondicionalmente al grupo de Cuba. Gordon Lilie RScP de Canadá, quien me enseñó esta gran filosofía de vida y apoyo para crear este grupo en Cuba; él siempre confió en mí, me creyó capaz y me alentó a tomar esta decisión. Él mismo me contactó con Rev. Mark Gilbert y la Dra. Rev. Rebeca Piña, quien fue la primera en brindarme su apoyo en libros en español y escritos. Más adelante, alguien muy especial nos comenzó a brindar su apoyo hasta la fecha, aún en los tiempos difíciles de COVID y es Rev. Ogla Silva, con quien termine mis estudios. También, Raúl González quien nos da su guía y está siempre en contacto con nosotros.
- Es un placer poder compartir esta filosofía de vida y comparto fotos de nuestra comunidad.

El Puente del Caribe Study Group, Costa Rica

- We work with volunteers who come from all over the world, made available to us from the El Puente. They help El Puente do their service and use our study group meetings as a way of building their spiritual lives.
- We help people work with their minds and thoughts to help them build sustainable lives. This important outreach includes the Indigenous people we serve (who are living on less than \$2 a day family income) as well as the volunteers. Our goal is to support all in implementing financial health and prosperity.
- We do our best to personify Love, for the volunteers who come to us with discussions about their lives and the people we continue to serve through El Puente.
- Community service is in our everyday lives. We routinely help people who come to us and need advice on things that affect their daily lives. We also help them plan for the future. When service is needed, we provide it or direct people to what is needed.
- Safety is in everyday activities, and if we run into personal safety issues, we work to provide counseling or contact with qualified providers.
- Compassion and caring are part of our daily existence. We pay attention with an eye out for people who may need some assistance.
- Education (and/or access to it) is provided, both for the people who attend study group meetings and those encountered by our volunteers at El Puente.
- Transformation and evolution: We help people move their lives to their highest vision.
- We founded El Puente with the assistance of the study group, and it continues to serve after 20 years of operation.
- Volunteers from many CSL locations across the globe have visited us over the years. We are grateful for their time and support.

CSL Spiritually Motivated Social Engagement Committee

Centers for Spiritual Living identifies and addresses global social issues by offering its considered opinion based in conscious and peaceful spirituality and the Science of Mind teaching.

CSL communicates its position throughout the organization, and offers principled guidance and insight to local communities who wish to engage in their own conversation.

The Spiritually Motivated Social Engagement (SMSE) Committee strives to look beyond personal opinion and instead to the broader context that represents important global issues while avoiding spiritual bypass, exclusion and blame. We understand that our response may not capture all views, and we appreciate people who share dissenting points of views with us.

There are many ways to view current affairs and topics of social significance in a spiritual context. We try to carefully research and look at as many angles and perspectives as possible given the global reach of our organization and the potential impacts on so many people, seeking always to link our statements to core Science of Mind teachings, our organization's shared values and Global Vision. We trust that our readers understand how seriously we take our responses to these world issues.

9/19/2022

[United Nations International Day of Peace: September 21, 2022](#)

8/1/2022

[International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: August 9, 2022](#)

7/1/2022

[Statement on Loss of Constitutional Protection](#)

6/27/2022

[World Food Security](#)

5/17/2022

[CSL Stands with the People of Buffalo, New York](#)

4/13/2022

[Sacred Season for Climate Justice](#)

3/31/2022

[International Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

3/1/2022

[A Call to Prayer](#)

6/24/2021

[CSL Statement on PRIDE Month](#)

6/7/2021

[CSL Statement Ethnic and Cultural Genocide](#)

4/22/2021

[CSL Statement on Chauvin Verdict](#)

4/15/2021

[Earth Day: Our Holy Home](#)

3/19/2021

[CSL Statement of Solidarity with Asian and Pacific Islanders Communities Worldwide](#)

3/8/2020

[CSL Celebrates International Women's Day](#)

6/2/2020

[CSL Statement on Racism in the United States](#)